

Please make the following amendments to the application:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **amend** claim 1; **cancel** claims 2-8; and **add** new claim 9 as shown in the Summary of the Claims, *infra*. Additions are underlined and deletions are struck through.

SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended)

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1. (Amended) An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a single first-in, first-out memory for carrying out write/read processing of image data;

an enlarging variable magnification unit for carrying out variable-magnification processing following write processing and read processing of image data to and from the first-in, first-out memory during image enlargement based on magnification ratio; and

~~switching means capable of switching a processing order of write/read processing of image data carried out at the first-in, first-out memory and variable-magnification processing carried out at the variable magnification unit~~

a reducing variable magnification unit for writing image data to the first-in, first-out memory after variable-magnification is carried out during image reduction.

Claims 2-8 (cancel)

Claim 9 (newly added)

9. An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a line memory for storing one line worth of image data;

a plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of output lines for connecting the line memory and the plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of switching means for turning the plurality of output lines on or off individually; and

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a variable-magnification processing means for increasing and decreasing the number of times to turn on the switching means in correspondence to magnification ratio.

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